



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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A Child of God or Slave of Money?

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
22 Sep 2019

Am 8:4-7
1 Tm 2:1-8
Lk 16:1-13

What was our reaction when hearing of the Steward's plan? Did we sympathise with his pragmatic utilitarian deeds or did we feel repulsed at his dishonesty? How many of us might have done the same if we were in his position? If we had knowledge that our job was under threat, wouldn't the natural "humanly" deed be to do whatever it takes to preserve it?

Indeed, while the desire for self-preservation is not wrong, it is important for us to consider the extent we will go to preserve ourselves. Perhaps we need our jobs as the sole bread winner of the family; perhaps we were wrongly accused. Would we then be justified to act "astutely" (Lk 16:8)? Can lying to keep our jobs be justified given that our family and others are depending on us; is it just to cheat since we have been treated unfairly?

If we are tempted to answer "Yes", then we would be guilty of proportionalism. A moral error, St John Paul II tells us that proportionalism occurs when one "focuses rather on the proportion acknowledged between the good and bad effects of that choice, with a view to the 'greater good' or 'lesser evil' [superficially] possible in a particular situation" (*Veritatis Splendor* 75). This

relativistic way of reasoning directly contradicts Christ's instruction to "Keep the commandments" (Mt 19:17) which he states are necessary to "obtain eternal life" (Mt 19:18).

In view of this, it becomes clear why Christ elucidates the actions of the steward by saying that "the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light" (Lk 16:1-13). In doing so, Christ brands the steward as a worldly man, one who is competent in the ways of the world yet lacks the necessary disposition and morals to obtain eternal life. At this, we are reminded of Christ's maxim "For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?" (Mk 8:36)

Returning to the parable, if we were not entirely repulsed by the steward's actions, how did we feel about the hypocritical actions of the master? Although he dismissed his steward for dishonesty, he later praises him precisely for being dishonest; deeming his steward's actions as astute instead of deceitful. If we were at first sympathetic to the actions of the steward, would this sympathy be extended to his master? If we saw our boss praise a colleague for dishonesty, would we not be repulsed by such a blatant lack of principles?

It thus follows that Christ, in exposing the unscrupulous steward, simultaneously judges his sympathetic master as dishonest. For the master - himself worldly-lacked sufficient virtue and strength of character to act on principle, but rather became impressed by the dishonesty of the steward and "praised his bribery" (cf. Pope Francis,



"You cannot be the slave both of God and of money"
- Lk 16:13

Dirty bread of corruption, 2013). Pope Francis also notes that such deeds are a serious sin because it contradicts our dignity, "that dignity by which we are united through our work" (*ibid*).

In concluding our reflection, special attention should be paid to the caution of Christ at the end of the Gospel narrative: "you cannot be the slave both of God and of money". Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI notes that "money" in the original text is "mammon" which is a "term of Phoenician origin that calls to mind... riches as the idol to which everything is sacrificed in order to attain one's own material success; hence, this economic success becomes a person's true god" (*Homily at Velletri*, 2007).

Considering all this, let us reflect once again on the dishonest master and his steward, asking ourselves if we truly sympathise with their "astuteness" (ie worldliness). Do we want to serve God virtuously as his children, or do we want to be enslaved by the false-god of worldliness?

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS FOR SFX CER

Our upcoming SFX CER in Nov is an excellent opportunity for us to live up to our charitable self. We have started a spiritual bouquet for all involved in the upcoming SFX CER. Spiritual bouquets are prayers or devotional acts that someone (the giver) has or will offer for someone else (the recipient). We will be offering rosary prayers and devotional acts of fasting as part of our spiritual bouquet. Booths will be set up during all weekend masses from **7 - 29 Sep**. Come and sign up to offer your spiritual support for the Retreatants, Archbishop William Goh, Priests & all Service Team!

CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MISSION TRIP

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing our next mission trip to Myanmar on the **3rd week of Dec** (Exact dates TBC). We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to assist Fr Benjamin Eihsu with the children's spiritual formation. If you are keen to join in either Mission trips or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

SALE OF LENS CLEANING TISSUES

Lens cleaning tissue boxes (made in the USA, 300 sheets in a box) have been donated to our church and these can be used for your spectacles, cameras and mobile phones. Do take a box home today and if you can, please drop a contribution of \$5 into the box for the Church Renovation Fund.

ARCHDIOCESAN PRAYER MISSION - MONTHLY MASS, BENEDICTION, REFLECTION

Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, as the Mother Church of our archdiocese is having a Mass to pray for God's special protection, guidance and blessings on the many needs of our archdiocese. Please give this important initiative of the Cathedral your support. This monthly Mass, Benediction and brief reflection will be on **Thu 26 Sep, 6.30pm** at the **Cathedral**. For further details, please call the Cathedral office at 6337 2036.

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: MINISTRY & MISSION

Have you ever felt a stirring in your heart towards a greater mission? Sometimes as we grow comfortable serving in the parish ministry we are serving in, we lose the sense of the greater call. Are lectors just called to read? Are wardens merely called to direct traffic? Are choirs just called to sing? The Lord has great dreams for us and calls us to be vessels in building his kingdom – He calls us to a deeper mission, a deeper calling. Come and discover the deeper calling and mission in your ministry with Mike Arents on **Mon 23 Sep, 8 - 10pm** at the **Main Church**. All are welcome!

60TH ANNIVERSARY FEAST DAY DINNER: ONE-WAY BUS TICKETS SALE & PRIZES APPEAL

There are one-way bus tickets for sale. **Bus pick up in front of Church foyer and departs at 6.15pm sharp on Sun 1 Dec**. We would like to appeal for your generosity for donations for lucky draw prizes - new electronic items or gifts vouchers are welcome. Please contact Patrick at 9616 6663 if you would like to purchase tickets or contribute to the lucky draw prizes.



OYP: TREASURE 11 (YOUNG ADULTS ENCOUNTER RETREAT)

"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." - 2 Cor 4:7

Do you believe that God has the power to bring about Hope and New Life despite the circumstances you are in? Are the treasures of the world unable to satisfy your soul? We invite you to come and discover the Treasure that He offers you!

OYP's Catholic stay-in encounter retreat for young working adults, Treasure 11, is now open for registration. It will be held from **Fri 25 Oct, 8pm - Mon 28 Oct, 6pm** at \$130 per person. *(No taking of annual leave required as 28 Oct is a public holiday.)* Come as you are! Register here: oyp.org.sg/treasure11



PIETA SINGAPORE

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is on **Tue 24 Sep, 7.30pm** at **Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8**. Contact us via pieta.singapore@gmail.com or visit us at facebook.com/PietaSingapore

ACMI: MIGRANT SUNDAY

It's not just about Migrants but about all of us! Let us join together in prayer this Migrant Sunday that we embrace fully the challenges of our Christian vocation as we Welcome, Protect, Promote, and Integrate our brothers and sisters in our community. Get a prayer card from the parish today! For more information, visit acmi.org.sg or email acmi@catholic.org.sg

CHIJ 165TH ANNIVERSARY: 'IJ RECONNECT - COME, SEE & SHARE'

Inviting all Friends of IJ to join us in our journey to revisit the inspiration of our Founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre, deepen our IJ Spirituality and to respond to the needs of today through our IJ Mission.

Date: Sat 19 Oct

Time: 8.45am - 12.30pm

Venue: CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh)

Register: IJReconnect2019@gmail.com by Tue 1 Oct

We are completely accepted, extremely valuable and eternally loved by God!

Rite of Christian Initiation for Youths (RCIY)



From 6 to 8 Sep, 23 RCIY (Rite of Christian Initiation for Youths) inquirers, who have been on this journey since the mid of this year, spent the weekend at the Church of the Transfiguration for their first RCIY retreat. The focus of this retreat was on allowing the inquirers to learn more about the different dimensions of their identity, and also to provide them the space and time to discover their true identity in Christ.

Each inquirer was given a special handcrafted journal which were designed by a group of talented youths from the parish. They then had the opportunity to use these journals as they were introduced to practice of journaling. In addition, they were also exposed to new prayer methods such as the Examen.

The sessions on Saturday revealed to them their 3 unchangeable fingerprints - that they are 1) Completely Accepted, 2) Extremely Valuable, and 3) Eternally Loved in the eyes of God. In the evening, they were invited to approach the cross in a para-liturgy, and surrendered an obstacle that was preventing them from taking a step closer to Jesus. They also went through the Rite of Acceptance, the first of all Rites in the RCIA/Y catechumenate journey.

Let us, as one church, continue to keep the RCIY catechumens and service team in prayer as we continue to journey towards the waters of baptism and confirmation.

"Going into the retreat, I was feeling weary and exhausted. I knew God loved me, but subconsciously I felt undeserving of His love for me. What really struck me was that He had already accepted me for who I was, for all my strengths and weaknesses, but was I able to allow myself to be fully accepted by Him?"

I felt the Lord reaffirming me as His child, and giving that final push I needed to truly claim my identity as His child :)"

- JACK

"The camp was a great experience and it definitely managed to spark the faith in me after being skeptical for years. I will make sure it continues to grow even after the camp for what I had was special. I had prayed for God to show me what is faith and His love all about. Indeed, through this camp I realized He works in His own ways and time!"

- GWYNETH

"My first thoughts about this retreat was that it was going to be a boring one and I would not enjoy it. However, as the hours passed, my understanding of Jesus went to a whole new level. I understood that in our lives there would be ups and downs but it is all there for a reason. In this retreat, I feel that my spiritual life has been nourished."

- CHRISTIAN

(continued on Pg 4)



Fun shot after games.



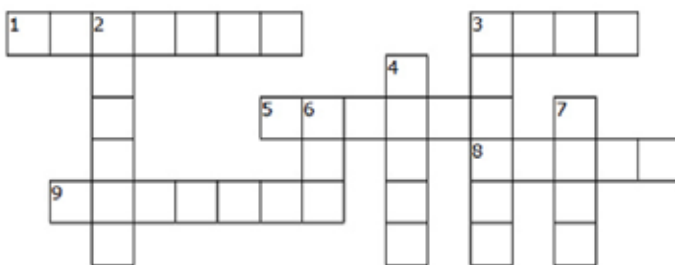
Facil praying for a fellow brother-in-Christ.



Do the Right Thing!

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. Luke 16:10 (NIV)

Based on Luke 16:1-13



ACROSS

1. A person who performs duties around the home of a master
3. To like something very much
5. Truthful, trusted, not likely to steal, cheat or lie
8. To have complete confidence in someone
9. To feel a strong dislike for someone or something

DOWN

2. A large amount of money or valuable possessions that someone has
3. A very small amount
4. The Son of God
6. To be obligated to repay a debt to someone
7. A very large amount

MUCH	OWE	LITTLE	SERVANT	DESPISE
LOVE	RICHES	HONEST	TRUST	JESUS



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

Mass Timings

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)
Sun: 7am, 9am, 11am & 5.30pm
Confession 15 mins before Sunday Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Fri:
6.30am & 6.30pm
Sat: 6.30am

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30am *only*

HOLY HOUR

8.30pm, every first Thurs of the month

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:
9am - 9pm
Sat: 9am - 7pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.



INFANT BAPTISM

Baptism of Infants is held every 2nd Sunday of the odd month at 4pm in the main church. Preparation session for both parents and godparents is held the Sunday before at 3.30pm in the SFX room. For more information please contact infbaptism@sfxchurch.sg.



FUNERAL

Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact St.Pio prayer group via the Parish Office.



MARRIAGE

Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.



MASS OFFERING

Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.



VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg